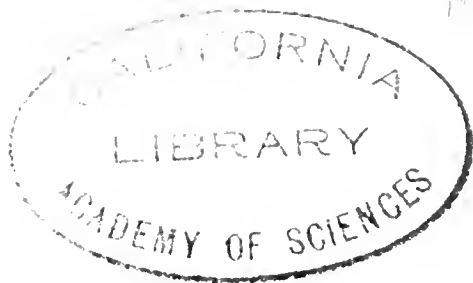


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THE

MONTHLY



GULL

BULLETIN

VOLUME 9

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, SEPTEMBER, 1927

NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, the 8th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, 2nd Floor, Room 19.

The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Harry S. Swarth, Curator of birds, California Academy of Sciences.

Subject: A Bird Trip in Arizona.



SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP will be taken on Sunday, September 11th, to Baumberg Station, on the Alvarado Branch, a short distance below Mt. Eden, for the purpose of observing waders, shore birds and the earlier ducks. The lists on this trip run from thirty to thirty-five interesting species, with possibilities of including avocets and stilts.

Take Southern Pacific ferry leaving San Francisco at 8:40 a. m. East Bay members may take train at First St. and Broadway, Oakland, at 9:15 a. m. Purchase round trip ticket to Baumberg, about \$1.20 from San Francisco or about 75 cents from Oakland. Allow ample time to purchase tickets before boarding boat or train. Return train will leave Mt. Eden at 4:23 p. m. Bring lunch and canteens.

The party will leave clubhouse at Baumberg about one-quarter mile west of the station, at 10 a. m. This may be reached by automobile via the highway from San Lorenzo to Mt. Eden and Alvarado, turning off toward the bay about three-quarters of a mile below Mt. Eden four corners. Or, otherwise, from car line at Haywards, via the road to Mt. Eden and thence as above.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE AUGUST MEETING: The one hundred twenty-fifth regular meeting of the Association was held on August 11th, in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners with Dr. Frederick W. D'Evelyn, President, in the chair; Mr. I. M. Parry, Secretary pro tem; thirty-six members and guests present.

Mr. Ralph Hoffmann's book, "Birds of the Pacific States," was reviewed. Regrets were expressed that the same did not have a flexible cover making it more easily carried in the field. The book can be purchased through the Association for \$4.50.

Dr. F. S. Palmer, of the Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., whom the Association had the extreme pleasure of welcoming at its meeting, stated that this was the first book to be published that followed the new order of bird families. The Association voted to follow the same order in its Field Notes published in *The Gull* beginning with the January 1928 issue.

Dr. Palmer gave a short and interesting talk on the History of Ornithology in the State of California. The history is divided into three epochs. The first dates from 1786, when travelers along the coast studied bird life in that region and collected specimens which were taken to Europe. The second epoch started with settlers coming into the State during the gold rush. Specimens collected during this period found their way to Washington and other Eastern centers. The third epoch consists of work done by native born ornithologists. Dr. Palmer himself belongs to this group, having been born in Oakland, Cal. The specimens collected during this period were largely destroyed in the San Francisco fire, 1906, as most of them were housed in the California Academy of Sciences.

Whereas, California has had an ornithological history of 140 years, there is little of the material collected during the first 120 years to be found within its borders.

Mr. Thomas Bridges collected in Santa Clara Valley, living in San Jose, and was the first resident ornithologist of the State. He made a list thirty-three species found in his locality. The list is very much like those taken in that region today. This list was sent to England to be read at the meeting of the Zoological Society in London June 7, 1857.

Mr. Bridges died September 9, 1865. His remains lie in an unmarked grave in Laurel Hill Cemetery, San Francisco. Dr. Palmer sincerely hopes that the Clubs of the Bay Region interested in Ornithology will place an appropriately marked tablet at the grave.

Mrs. Kibbe then took charge of the program and asked various members for their vacation experiences. Among those to respond was Miss Selma Werner whose account follows in her own words:

A story is told in Yosemite of a man who went to the Transportation Office and asked where the big boulders came from, which are seen on the floor of the valley. "The glaciers brought them down," was the not strictly geological answer. "Where are the glaciers now?" "O, they've gone back for more boulders."

I seem to be going back to Yosemite for more birds each year and there is always something new to be seen. Whereas last year a long list of birds was the excitement of the day, this summer birds' nests occupied all my time. Still there were many thrills and I never will forget the glimpse of the western kingbird, the pileolated woodpecker and an evening grosbeak feeding its young. Even the Nature Guide was astounded at a flock of fifty black swifts flying low over the meadow. The year before in eight weeks we had the record of only one.

As soon as I arrived, I went into the old apple orchard to look at last year's nest of a white-headed woodpecker. For "Auld lang syne," I gave the tree a friendly tap with my stick. A rush of wings and I was almost thrown over by the bird, which was nearly as frightened as I. This taught me that white-headed woodpeckers nest in the same hole two years in succession. Afterwards I learned that this was the third year this particular pair had nested in that tree. Speaking of W.H.W.'s, some boy scouts found three babies in the High Sierras and thinking they were deserted, brought them down to the B——s. With infinite patience, Mrs. B—— fed them every half hour for several days and they perked up wonderfully. Their coats grew smooth and black, they grew stronger and finally tapped on the box in approved woodpecker fashion. They even went so far as to give the woodpecker cry which shows how instinctive these things are. Then, one day, they just turned over and died.

The water ouzels were found in the same old nesting place, under Clark's Bridge. When I saw them, the young birds were out of the nest, dipping

and bobbing on the river bank. A few weeks later someone reported baby water ouzels in the nest and there they were, in the deep shadow of the bridge—four inky black heads with open yellow mouths looking just like black-faced comedians. Mother Ouzel went up stream, Father down, and those babies were fed on an average of once every two and one-half minutes. Wishing to show them to some friends, a few days later, what was my surprise to find them out of the nest, bobbing and dipping as their sisters and brothers had done not long before. In actual dates, the first brood was out of the nest on June 2nd, the second on July 15th. They really seemed to be exceeding the speed limit.

But it isn't all joy in the bird world. There are so many tragedies, I am surprised any survive. We found nests of warblers, of vireos, of fly-catchers, even the nest of a white-crowned sparrow, deserted, with one or two eggs left to tell the tale of frustrated ambition.

Near the river, we heard the sound of young birds and found the nest of a Modoc hairy woodpecker within two feet of the ground, and five of the water. As we approached a bird flew out and fell into the river. The current helped him and his struggling wings brought him to a twig where he pulled himself up to safety. There was a large class—somebody may have frightened him—he fell in a second time and was drowned. Thrilled by the bravery of that bit of life, suddenly plunged into two strange elements, we were saddened by the thought that had we humans not been there, it would have survived.

Pigmy owls completely cleared a meadow in front of Camp Curry of song birds, and another such tract was reported near the postoffice. A nature guide saw a pigmy owl take a young vireo from its nest, bring it to his mate, who proceeded to pluck it and feed it to her young.

The larger birds, robins, jays, grosbeaks, tanagers and sparrow hawks are increasing and seem able to care for themselves, but the tiny songsters seem to me to be growing fewer each year and I didn't see a kinglet nor a hermit thrush in seven weeks.

So much is said about the balance of nature these days, but just as bears are getting to be a nuisance in the valley and as deer are multiplying too rapidly, due to the killing of the mountain lion, so, unless something is done for their protection, I feel that our tiny songsters will soon be a thing of the past.

SELMA WERNER.

* * *

AN UNUSUAL EXPERIENCE

On August 15th, while crossing on the Oakland automobile ferryboat leaving San Francisco at 6:20 p. m., a strange call was heard coming from the water near the boat. On investigating it was found to be a loon. The crew as well as the other passengers became interested as the bird continued giving its weird call until the boat was out of hearing distance.

* * *

AUGUST FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, the 14th, to Fairfax and over the Bolinas Road to the junction of the old Bon Tempe road which was followed to the head of Alpine Lake, then to Liberty Camp where luncheon was eaten. After luncheon the party retraced their steps to where a road turns off and goes through the meadow to Lake Lagunitas, following this road to the lake, then across the dam, circling the south side of the lake, then over the Lake Fire Trail to the Eldridge Grade down to the west end of and past Phoenix Lake to Ross.

THE GULL

The different situations along this route consist of a small stream with willows and alders along the banks, a road through valley oaks and open meadows, lake shores either open or heavily wooded with different species of oaks, madrones and redwoods, also trails through the chaparral.

The day was bright and warm with an occasional cool breeze from the distant fog banks in the west. An interesting list of birds was obtained but almost half of the species observed were represented by a lone individual, some species from two to four were found; those seen in fairly large numbers were the turkey vultures, western crows, linnets, green-backed goldfinches, western lark sparrows, creepers, chickadees and western bluebirds.

Some of the party followed one of the oak covered ridges for a short distance. Two Hutton vireos were observed in an oak tree making a great commotion, after a careful search a screech owl was located in a fork of the tree among the dense foliage. So well did his color match the bark of the tree that without the vireos' aid he would not have been found. Near this same location an ash-throated flycatcher family furnished very interesting entertainment. Several creepers were also observed along here. In other places linnets, green-backed goldfinches and tree swallows were observed feeding their young which were full grown and out of the nest.

Birds encountered were: Northern, western and California gulls, Farallon double-crested cormorant on the bay; ruddy duck, California great blue heron, California clapper rail, western sandpiper on Richardson's Bay and the adjoining marsh; common mallard on Phoenix Lake; spotted sandpiper, northern killdeer on shores of Alpine Lake. Elsewhere: Coast California quail, northern band-tailed pigeon, western mourning dove; northern turkey vulture, Cooper, western red-tailed and sparrow hawks, California coast screech owl; western belted kingfisher, willow downy and California acorn-storing woodpeckers; Anna and Allen hummingbirds; northern ash-throated flycatcher, black phoebe, yellow-bellied western flycatcher; southern coast steller and northwestern California jays, western American crow; western meadowlark. California purple finch, California linnet, green-backed Arkansas goldfinch, western lark sparrow, Point Pinos Oregon junco, Marin song sparrow, San Francisco spotted and brown towhees, western tanager; barn and tree swallows; California Hutton vireo, California yellow warbler; Nicasio Bewick wren, tawny brown creeper, California plain titmouse, Marin chestnut-backed chickadee, Pacific coast bush-tit, ruddy wren-tit, Pacific russet-backed thrush, western Mexican bluebird. Fifty-one species.

Members in attendance: Mesdames Bracelin, Kelly, Kibbe, Mexia; Mesdemoiselles Cockefair, Martha Crum, Gunn, Haefner, Paroni; Dr. Card, Messrs. Bryant, Myer, Smith. As guests: Mesdemoiselles Mirsky, Mott, White; Messrs. Bodenhamer, Fargo, Lockerbie. Scouts Richard Gillman, Felix and Harold Juda, Herbert Rosenbaum, Alfred Weiler. Thirteen members and eleven guests.

C. A. BRYANT.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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Meets second Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, Second Floor, Room 19.

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Subscription to Bulletin alone, 35c per year.

Membership dues, payable January 1, \$3.00 per year.